

Senate File 287 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT
(SUCCESSOR TO SF 181)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing campaign contribution limits for candidates
2 for statewide office or the general assembly and making civil
3 and criminal penalties applicable and including an effective
4 date.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
6 TLSB 1622SV 83
7 jr/sc/8

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.502A LIMITATIONS ON
1 2 CONTRIBUTIONS.
1 3 1. A state statutory political committee, county statutory
1 4 political committee, or political committee shall not make and
1 5 a candidate or candidate's committee shall not accept
1 6 contributions that, during any election campaign cycle, in the
1 7 aggregate, exceed the following:
1 8 a. Two thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's
1 9 committee for a statewide office.
1 10 b. Five hundred dollars to any candidate or candidate's
1 11 committee for the Iowa house of representatives.
1 12 c. One thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's
1 13 committee for the Iowa senate.
1 14 2. During any election campaign cycle a person shall not
1 15 make and a candidate or candidate's committee shall not accept
1 16 any contribution, as defined in section 68A.102, that in the
1 17 aggregate exceeds the following:
1 18 a. Four thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's
1 19 committee for a statewide office.
1 20 b. One thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's
1 21 committee for the Iowa house of representatives.
1 22 c. Two thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's
1 23 committee for the Iowa senate.
1 24 3. The term "election campaign cycle" means the time
1 25 period between elections for a particular office. For
1 26 purposes of this section, each primary, general, and special
1 27 election is a separate election campaign cycle. Separate
1 28 contribution limits for each type of election for a particular
1 29 office, including primary, general, and special elections,
1 30 apply in an election campaign cycle.
1 31 4. The contribution limitations in this section do not
1 32 include contributions made by the candidate or the candidate's
1 33 spouse or dependent to the candidate's own campaign or in-kind
1 34 contributions from a state statutory political committee or a
1 35 county statutory political committee.

2 1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
2 2 2011.

EXPLANATION

2 4 This bill establishes campaign contribution limits for
2 5 candidates for statewide office and the general assembly.
2 6 Separate limits are established for individuals, political
2 7 committees, state party central committees, and political
2 8 parties. It is a violation both for a contributor to make and
2 9 a candidate or candidate's committee to accept contributions
2 10 in excess of the amounts set out in the bill.
2 11 The specified limitations are for each election cycle,
2 12 i.e., a primary, general, or special election. By operation
2 13 of law, the limitations apply to in-kind contributions, such
2 14 as printing, but do not apply to the cash value of volunteer

2 15 activity. The bill excludes limitations on in-kind
2 16 contributions from a state statutory political committee or a
2 17 county statutory political committee.
2 18 The bill provides that the contribution restrictions do not
2 19 apply to contributions made by the candidate or the
2 20 candidate's spouse or dependent to the candidate's own
2 21 campaign.
2 22 As provided in Code section 68A.701, a willful violation of
2 23 any provision of the campaign finance chapter is a serious
2 24 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for up to one year and a
2 25 fine of at least \$315 but not more than \$1,875. A variety of
2 26 civil remedies are also available in Code section 68B.32D for
2 27 a violation of Code chapter 68A or rules of the ethics and
2 28 campaign disclosure board, ranging from a reprimand to a civil
2 29 penalty of not more than \$2,000.
2 30 The bill has a January 1, 2011, effective date.
2 31 LSB 1622SV 83
2 32 jr/sc/8